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Security Council

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## Letter dated 11 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In reference to the consultations which took place in the Security Council on Friday 6 December 2002, the telephone consultations which took place on Saturday, 7 December 2002, and Sunday, 8 December 2002, the consultations held by the Council on 9 December 2002 for deliberation on Iraq's delivery of its declaration pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1441 (2002) and the decision which you took on your own responsibility, in your capacity as President of the Security Council, on Sunday evening, 8 December 2002, in addition to the statement which you made to the media late Sunday night, 8 December 2002, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to express the following:

1. Syria's indignation over the violation of Security Council procedures, which do not permit a Council President to issue a statement on his own responsibility, especially since the prior consultations revealed a lack of consensus regarding the content of that statement. Syria emphasizes that the erroneous procedure should not constitute a precedent for the work of the Council.

2. Syria, which is a member of the Security Council, has no knowledge of any request by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for assistance from States expert in the field of assessing the dangers of proliferation and other sensitive information. Consequently, the statement of the President is an unacceptable justification of the arrogation of the Iraqi declaration by some members of the Council to the exclusion of the other members.

3. The statement made by the President of the Council to journalists on 8 December 2002 on his own responsibility is a violation of the provisions of paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1441 (2002) and also constitutes flagrant discrimination against Council members who are supposed to be treated equally, particularly since the Syrian Arab Republic is the only Member State on the Security Council that is a neighbour of Iraq and is directly affected by all that is happening there.

4. The Syrian Arab Republic voted in favour of resolution 1441 (2002) in the interest of preserving unity in the Security Council and a consensus among its members, which was shattered when the aforementioned statement was made.

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5. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms once again that it does not associate itself with your statement, which was an inappropriate way of handling the Iraqi declaration, and stresses that limiting the distribution of the Iraqi declaration to certain Member States does not give any of them the right to make use of ultra-sensitive paragraphs or those dealing with the danger of proliferation for their own purposes, which are alien to the purposes of the Security Council and its resolutions, and that the Security Council is the only entity empowered to determine the extent to which its resolutions are being complied with.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mikhail **Wehbe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative